Impact of Social Welfare Strategies on the Traditional Family Systems: Evidence from selected Countries in the Asian Region

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Abstract

Family transition is a phenomenon experienced by many countries including the countries in the Asian region. The impact of its changing scenario is different to the western world because of the values embedded in traditional family system. The core areas discussed at the commencement of the paper relate to family transition, its structure, family formation and functions, adducing prime reasons for changes occurring at various stages of these processes as evident in the countries of the Asian region. The study has found the importance of formulating a family policy, which should focus on child care and child development through health care and education, maternal care, employment, needs of disabled and elders aiming at strengthening family unit. In conclusion, to facilitate the achievement of the aims of recommendations in the formulation of family policy the countries in the region can share their experiences on good practice and limitation of the existing welfare programmes for future planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing. Thus, a comprehensive "Family policy" will be a pro-active intervention, which will help uplift living standards of the family members and contribute to national development.

Key words: Social welfare; Traditional family systems; Family policy; Social security